

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 320 without my signature.

This measure would require the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the Corrections Standards Authority, when providing funds pursuant to AB 900 (Solorio, Chapter 7, Statutes of 2007), to give coequal funding preference to counties that assist the state in either siting reentry facilities or providing existing beds and program space in county jails for use as reentry facilities. While I appreciate the Legislature's efforts to provide local jail construction funding, which could help the state achieve its goal of providing up to 6,000 new reentry beds, I cannot approve this measure because it fails to define what would constitute an acceptable "long-term agreement" between the state and local governments.

Furthermore, I am unable to sign this measure while significant reforms to AB 900 remain unaddressed as a result of the newly memorialized construction partnership between the Administration and the Federal Receiver. In order to fully implement AB 900, I urge the Legislature, at the very least, to do the following: (1) provide permissive authority for the Secretary of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to accept assignment of any planning/design/construction contracts already entered into by the Receiver, and to continue projects (pursuant to Public Works Board approval) that have already begun with these contracts; (2) amend AB 900 to provide access to Phase II medical/mental health dental funding and/or shifting of funding from infill to medical/mental health/dental to construct a Consolidated Care Center facility; and (3) extend authority for the transfer of inmates to prisons in other states to July 1, 2014.

The above stated issues need to be addressed in order to expedite and facilitate the construction of both existing facility improvements and new facilities. Construction of these facilities is essential to ensure compliance with existing court mandates related to medical care, mental health care, and dental care.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger